

Committee on Ways and Means

The Oman FTA Enjoys Broad Support

“The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement is a key element for continued trade expansion in the Middle East. We urge Congress to approve this FTA as soon as possible,” said ACC President and CEO Jack N. Gerard.

– **American Chemistry Council news release (02/15/06)**

According to AFBF, the U.S-Oman FTA “will put us in a better position to compete in the marketplace with the EU and other countries.”

– **American Farm Bureau news release (12/12/05)**

“The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement would eliminate for U.S. manufacturers the 5-percent tariff that Oman currently imposes on imports of heavy equipment. The elimination of this tariff would...give U.S.-based manufacturers an advantage over competitors in Europe and Asia.”

– **Association of Equipment Manufacturers news release (01/20/06)**

“The U.S.-Oman free trade agreement would eliminate immediately the 5% tariff on all U.S. automotive products exported to Oman. This will give US motor vehicles a comparative advantage over our global competitors.”

– **Automotive Trade Policy Council news release (01/25/06)**

“In 2005, California exports to Oman were over \$20 million. California is one of the nation’s top exporters, with consistent growth in exports of computers, electronic products and machinery. The US-Oman Free Trade Agreement will continue to increase our state’s exports in these areas, as well as California’s agricultural and manufacturing industries.”

– **California Chamber of Commerce letter (07/13/06)**

“Eliminating barriers to trade is a win-win for countries and their citizens. Higher standards of living, peaceful relations, economic stability, respect for property rights, and greater individual liberty are just some of the innumerable benefits of free trade.”

– **Club for Growth key vote alert (07/17/06)**

“For a global company, Oman is an important trade point to be able to manufacture key products to serve the South-East Asian and Indian markets,” stated Romeo Kreinberg, Executive Vice President, Performance Plastics and Chemicals, The Dow Chemical Company. “We call on Congress to pass this agreement as soon as possible.”

– **Dow Chemical news release (10/03/05)**

“On an issue of concern for many, Oman has made the strongest commitments of any FTA partner on labor reform, agreeing to major reforms of its labor law to be enacted no later than October 31, 2006, after its required domestic consultation process. As a demonstration of its resolve to implement its commitments, Oman enacted a Royal Decree on July 8, 2006 to jump start the process and improve key areas where it had the authority to do so.”

– **ECAT – Emergency Committee for American Trade letter (07/18/06)**

"If it is ratified, the U.S.-Oman FTA will ultimately be validated by its strategic and economic gains for the U.S...Fears that the agreement could somehow undermine labor rights, hurt Omani workers, or put U.S. workers at a great disadvantage are unfounded. The facts of Oman's recent progress in labor rights and the FTA's safeguards point in the opposite direction. As well, this agreement is a crucial piece of the U.S. strategy of fighting terror by encouraging freedom and prosperity in the Middle East. FTAs serve to promote U.S. interests, not weaken them. The U.S.-Oman FTA fits this mold perfectly."

– Heritage Foundation study (07/13/06)

"This bilateral agreement is an important step toward implementing the Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA), which when taken as a whole would be one of our top ten export markets. This agreement has met all of the objectives for negotiating such pacts, as prescribed by Congress under Trade Promotion Authority."

– National Association of Manufacturers letter (06/28/06)

"Our industry welcomes free trade agreement with Oman. It will serve to expand the benefits of trade liberalization to all parties," said NEMA President Evan Gaddis. "Although Oman is not a large market, it is an important gateway to the Gulf region. The implementation of this FTA will mark an important step in the advancement of the administration's Middle East free trade initiative. We urge a speedy ratification."

– National Electric Manufacturers Association news release (01/19/06)

"I have recently returned from the Middle East, where I had an opportunity to discuss this FTA with government and business leaders in a number of countries. It is clear to me that they are watching U.S. Congressional actions very carefully and that how Congress votes on this issue will have a 'ripple effect' on perceptions in the region. Oman is one of America's most steadfast friends in the Arab world. If there is not a strong vote in support of this FTA, serious questions will be raised about the wisdom and viability of economic engagement with the United States," said David Hamod, President & CEO.

– National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce letter (07/11/06)

"The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (Oman FTA) is a small but significant step in expanding market opportunities for U.S. cattle producers. Oman is a net importer of beef, but so far its market has been largely untapped by U.S. cattle producers," said R-CALF USA International Trade Committee Chair Doug Zalesky.

– R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America statement (06/12/06)

"The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Implementation Act will provide U.S. companies of all sectors increased access to a rapidly growing market in one of the most strategically important regions of the world...[T]he agreement is of particular interest to U.S. exporters of telecommunications, oil and gas, medical, and electrical and manufacturing equipment."

– U.S. Chamber of Commerce key vote alert (07/18/06)

"On behalf of the over one hundred twenty U.S. companies and trade associations who make up the U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Coalition, we urge you and your colleagues to act swiftly to approve the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement."

– U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Coalition letter (06/22/06)